

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) An atraumatic surgical needle having two tissue-penetrating needle tips and comprising a tubular metal shaft that is hollow from tip to tip and has a cylindrical external surface from tip to tip, ~~at least one of the tips being open~~, the shaft having a central portion that is equipped with a hole, through which emerges a surgical thread that is anchored inside the needle.
2. (previously presented) The atraumatic surgical needle as claimed in claim 1, wherein the tips are beveled in one or more oblique planes and the hole through which the thread passes involves only one wall of the hollow shaft.
3. (previously presented) The atraumatic surgical needle as claimed in claim 1, wherein one end of the surgical thread is inserted into the hole of the needle and is anchored by means of pinching the needle.
4. (previously presented) The atraumatic surgical needle as claimed in claim 1, wherein the surgical thread is equipped with a knot.
5. (previously presented) The atraumatic surgical needle as claimed in claim 1, wherein the end of the surgical thread is inserted into the hole of the atraumatic two-tipped needle, is made to emerge from one end, is equipped with a knot and is then drawn back inside the shaft towards the hole.

6. (previously presented) The atraumatic surgical needle as claimed in claim 1, wherein the surgical thread, equipped in advance with a knot , is inserted into one end of the needle and is made to emerge through the hole.

7. (previously presented) The atraumatic surgical needle as claimed in claim 1, wherein the end of the surgical thread is inserted into the hole and is anchored inside the atraumatic two-tipped needle by means of a scotch , which is pushed down inside the needle from one of the two ends.

8. (previously presented) The atraumatic surgical needle as claimed in claim 7, wherein the scotch may consist of a solid bar or a portion of tube, made of metal or plastic, the calibre of which is determined by the diameter of the needle.

9. (previously presented) The atraumatic surgical needle as claimed in claim 7, wherein the scotch , when it has been placed in its final-position, is anchored inside the needle by pinching, or by means of glue or other suitable fixing material.

10. (previously presented) The atraumatic surgical needle as claimed in claim 1, wherein the surgical thread is fixed to the needle by means of a single- or dual-component glue or other solidifying material suited to the purpose.

11. (previously presented) The atraumatic surgical needle as claimed in claim 1, wherein the end of the surgical thread inserted into the hole emerges from one end of the needle, and is inserted and fixed into a hole in one end of a scotch, which is subsequently inserted into the needle.

12. (previously presented) The atraumatic surgical needle as claimed in claim 1, wherein the surgical thread is fixed between the coils of a tiny spring, which is then inserted into the atraumatic two-tipped needle.

13. (previously presented) The atraumatic surgical needle as claimed in claim 1, wherein the surgical thread is fixed by means of two or more anchoring techniques.